

1146 THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY. [5TH AUGUST 1946.]

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: I am not aware.

Kari Nilam in the Ambalapuzha taluk.

510. * MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have made any attempt in making the Kari Nilam in the Ambalapuzha taluk productive; and

(b) if so, the ways and means used in such attempt?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: (a) Yes.

(b) Investigations were made with a view to finding out the main factors responsible for the failure of crops in Kari lands such as high acidity, abnormal deficiency in phosphoric acid, presence of inorganic toxins like ferrous iron and active Aluminium, defective drainage and toxic concentration of water soluble alkali salts. The application of suitable doses of lime and phosphatic fertilisers and systematic washing out of accumulated salts were found to be effective methods to reclaim the areas for paddy cultivation.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the member is aware that vast acres of Kari lands are lying idle in Thottappally?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Almost all the lands have been brought under cultivation.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: That is not correct. Vast acres are lying idle.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Some lands are cultivated annually and some biennially. The member must have seen those lands which have been kept idle as they are cultivated biennially.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the Director will advise them so that those lands may be reclaimed and cultivated?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The answer is given already.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the special circumstances under which these lands are kept uncultivated?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Because they were under continuous cultivation for three or four years and it is necessary to allow them not for a year or two if cultivation were to be economic.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Is it on account of excessive cultivation? Is it not because the price of paddy given to the cultivator was not commensurate with the expenses of cultivation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is it the view that the cultivators will suffer actual losses?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir, that is the case.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is it due to the price level now fixed for paddy?

PRESIDENT: I may say this at once. These lands were, in the past, not cultivated annually but biennially. On account of the scarcity of the food materials they are definitely forced to cultivate and they have been cultivating continuously for three or four years. If again continuous cultivation is resorted to, a large number of years, it will be neither good for the land nor profitable to the cultivator.